



**SCHOOL DISTRICT #428 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 15, 2013**

A regular School Board Meeting of School District #428 was held on Friday, November 15, 2013 at the Aftercare Offices, 100 N. Western, Chicago, IL.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Director Bishop. Delores McKinney called roll call for those members present: Arthur Bishop, Director of IDJJ; Tresa Dunbar; Carl Ellis; James Gunnell; and, Donald Smoot. Others present: Rick Gravatt, Interim School District Superintendent; Beth Compton, Chief Legal Counsel; Era Laudermilk, Chief of Staff; Mary Reynolds, Intergovernmental Relations Chief; Gailyn Thomas, Deputy Director of Aftercare; Nathan Roth, IDJJ; Delores McKinney, Administrative Assistant; Josie Day, Executive Secretary (via telephone); Lisa Hampton, IDJJ; and, Kimberly Korando, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

**MINUTES:**

Director Bishop announced there were errors in the minutes that were taken at the last School Board meeting on October 29, 2013. Therefore, approval of the minutes was moved to the next meeting.

Director Bishop suggested the closed session be placed at the end of the agenda. The motion was made to amend the agenda to put the closed session on the end of the agenda by Donald Smoot and seconded by James Gunnell. Motion carried.

**UPDATES:**

Director Bishop asked that Interim Superintendent Gravatt bring the meeting up to date with what is going on. Interim Superintendent Gravatt explained that Aftercare Services helps the youth transition out of the facility and back into the community. He explained that in the past we did not have such services and it has been a big help to our youth.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt stated he had a meeting with Christine Boyd, Administrator for Adult Education in the Illinois Department of Corrections and Robert Eifert, also from DOC. In March 2013, they met with Dr. Kye Gaffey, previous Superintendent for the DJJ School District. At that time, there were 2,700 students in the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Illinois Department of Corrections under the age of twenty-one. At that time, the Illinois State Board of Education also expressed interest in discussing those students in the Illinois Department of Corrections under the age of twenty-one. At the present time, the Department of Corrections wants to discuss the issuance of high school diplomas and special education services for those students in the Department of Corrections under the age of twenty-one.

**REQUIREMENTS OF IDJJ:**

Interim Superintendent Gravatt stated that the Department of Juvenile Justice is working with the Illinois State Board of Education to determine expectations and actions required under The School Code. The monitoring process is complex. At a recent meeting with staff from the Illinois State Board of Education, they expressed their willingness to work with DJJ to create a plan to address issues raised in the consent decree as well as areas of focus for the State Board of Education. Tresa Dunbar stated that Interim Superintendent Gravatt has done an excellent job in developing a relationship with the Illinois State Board of Education and encouraged further communication.

A discussion was held over the Department of Juvenile Justice responsibilities with regards to education. Interim Superintendent Gravatt stated that the statute is clear that the Department of Juvenile Justice is mandated to educate all youth under the age of twenty one in the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Illinois Department of Corrections who do not have a high school diploma or a GED. Director Bishop suggested that we invite the Illinois Department of Corrections to the next School Board Meeting. A motion was made by Tresa Dunbar to meet with the Illinois Department of Corrections to discuss these issues. James Gunnell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt reviewed the different modules for education and recommended that the School District develop a set of School Board policies. Donald Smoot suggested that the Illinois Association of School Boards may be able to provide some assistance.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Lisa Hampton, DJJ staff, made a presentation about the Bridges to Pathways. The Bridges to Pathways program is targeting youth coming out of correctional facilities to encourage youth to continue their education and offer paid employment opportunities. The program is unique and has been successful with youth.

Kimberly Korando, a staff member from the Illinois Student Assistant Commissions (ISAC), discussed her organization and how it overlaps with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. They have offered outreach program since 2009 and will help students complete financial aid forms in order to apply for financial assistance for college. ISAC offered to work with youth and their families through DJJ to encourage youth to attend college.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

Director Bishop provided an update on recent actions the Department has taken to address prevent sexual victimization of youth in the Department.

Interim Superintendent Gravatt would like to encourage principals to attend School Board meetings.

Dr. Grady expressed an interest in visiting the DJJ Youth Centers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tresa Dunbar and seconded by Donald Smoot. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Gravatt, Interim School Superintendent